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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Missionaries queried about BFM status

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and ABP) — An International Mission Board (IMB) leader is contacting missionaries who have not yet promised to work in harmony with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), as IMB President Jerry Rankin requested almost a year ago.

Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations, is talking personally with the workers about their reasons for delaying or refusing. The phone calls continue months of dialogue about the matter between missionaries and IMB regional leaders.

Just as new missionaries are not sent overseas until they have affirmed that they will work in accord with the faith statement, Willis is telling workers on stateside assignment they will not be returned to overseas assignments unless they have done so as well, said Clyde Meador, IMB associate vice president of overseas operations.

Missionaries returning to the U.S. for stateside assignment are being told they must make their decisions before coming back.

"These calls are not being made to inform people that they are being fired. Avery is seeking to counsel missionaries and persuade them to make the affirmation," Meador said.

"Everyone was asked a year ago to decide whether or not they would make this affirmation. For IMB missionaries to say they cannot promise to work in harmony with what Southern Baptists believe would undercut the credibility of the IMB. It would be inconsistent with the accountability that has been required of missionaries since a 1965 action of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and expected of missionaries throughout our 157-year history."

Sixteen missionary units (32 people) have submitted resignations that cited Rankin's request as a factor in their decisions. Board officials estimate that less than one percent of the 5,400-plus missionaries have not announced their decisions.

Steve and Kay Armstrong, who currently are on leave of absence in Dallas from their service in Africa, are among the missionaries who say they recently received a call from Willis.

In a written summary of that Jan. 15 phone call provided to Associated Baptist Press,

Steve Armstrong recounted the events this way: "I asked if signing was still only a request. Avery said, 'Yes.' I asked if missionaries are going to be terminated for non-compliance to this request. He reacted that 'they have not made that decision yet,' but then he went on to explain that they had in fact made a decision that no missionary would be allowed to return to the field from stateside assignment or leave of absence without signing the BFM statement of accountability."

When Armstrong referred to this as "termination," he said, Willis replied that the IMB is not using that word.

Armstrong said he reiterated to Willis that he and his wife could not in good conscience sign the affirmation as required. "I asked him to please finalize the decision [about their future service] as soon as possible. He said, 'You can take that as a final decision.'"

Baptist Press has reported that several missionaries have written IMB to affirm Rankin's request after receiving his letter.

"When we first heard we might be asked to [promise to work in accord with the 2000 BFM], I was against it on principle and on hearsay, and I was glad when the trustees reaffirmed us," wrote Charlotte

Acree, who has served as a clinic nurse in Nigeria since 1987.

"However, when [Rankin's request] came out, I followed the suggestion of comparing the three editions of the BFM and found no cause for any alarm or dissension in any of them," she pointed out.

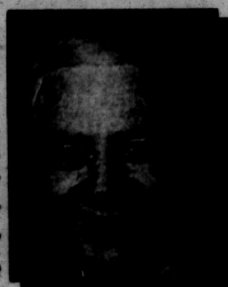
The vast majority of missionaries understand that their personal beliefs are their own but they are accountable for their ministry and teaching to the churches that send and support them, Rankin said.

"We appreciate the fact that virtually all our missionaries promised to work in accord with the 2000 BFM after giving it thoughtful and prayerful consideration," he said. "They understand the importance of conducting their ministries in a way that the churches would approve of."

"Southern Baptist missionaries have always been expected to honor the beliefs of the churches that send and support them. When messengers to the 2000 SBC annual meeting revised the BFM, it created a need to affirm that we would work in harmony with their beliefs."

"We would deeply regret losing any missionary, but we are accountable to the churches in this matter. If a missionary's disagreements are so great that he cannot in good conscience promise to work in harmony with the BFM, we feel he has an obligation to Southern Baptists to tell them so," Rankin said.

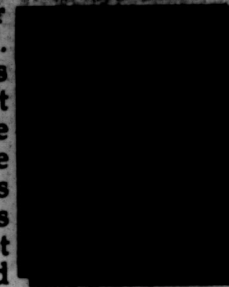
For more information from IMB regarding the BFM request, go to [www.imb.org/bfm/default.htm](http://www.imb.org/bfm/default.htm).



Willis



S. Armstrong



K. Armstrong



Acree

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Directions

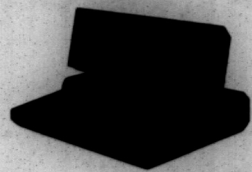
Swanberg: lighten up!

Women's track a first

Sunday School lessons



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# Missions: the difficult months

**T**he International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention has of late experienced a difficult and demanding time. It would probably be hyperbole to describe the past few months as the most important in the history of IMB and its predecessor, the Foreign Mission Board, but it's certainly had the feeling of a wild roller coaster ride that just keeps going on and on.

Three of Southern Baptists' best and brightest were gunned down on December 30 by a Muslim fanatic who entered their beloved Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen, a prominent Christian outpost in an otherwise deeply Islamic part of the world. Gone are physician Martha Myers, hospital purchasing agent Kathleen Gariety, and hospital administrator Bill Koehn. Seriously wounded in the shooting spree but well on the way to recovery is pharmacist Don Caswell.

Secular news coverage of their lives and deaths was ephemeral, as the world returned to rumors of war and the space shuttle disaster. Still, it was a blow to all who knew them — to their friends and families and particularly the people at IMB who were responsible for seeing to it that they had the resources and support to accomplish their stressful jobs under dangerous conditions.

Immediately following on the heels of the deadly assault was the announcement that IMB had completed negotiations some months before to transfer responsibility for running the Jibla hospital over to health officials in the national government.

IMB officials explained the hospital transfer as keeping with the new direction toward which the agency is moving, and they pledged to help the hospital remain viable. The decision to transfer the 35-year-old hospital founded by Southern Baptists stirred controversy with some people, who saw it as abandonment of a vital ministry in a needy part of the world and as the first step toward eventual closure of the facility.

Now comes reports that IMB has decided missionaries who have not signed an affir-

mation of the most recent revision of the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) will not be allowed to return to their mission fields after stateside assignment (formerly known as furlough). Missionaries who are still on the field must decide whether to sign the affirmation before they return to the U.S. for their next stateside assignment.

Although the IMB estimates that only one percent of Southern Baptists' current missionary force has not signed the affirmation one year after being requested to do so, the agency has also confirmed that 32 missionaries and spouses have resigned rather than sign the affirmation.

To a layman (at least to this layman), the rationale for pushing the BFM affirmation is foggy. IMB President Jerry Rankin has said that the request for affirmation was necessary because as-yet unnamed people were questioning the doctrinal credibility of the Southern Baptist missionary force. As the voices of those people have not been heard in the public debate, speculation has naturally arisen as to who they are and what motives they harbor.

On the other hand, this layman/editor also sees the benefit of building a loyal staff at The Baptist Record, IMB, or any other Baptist entity that will work with passion, unity, and harmony toward the overriding goal of helping to bring the people of the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Such motivation is essential if we are to achieve maximum benefit for the prayers and financial sacrifices that have been invested in us by the members of our churches.

"I PASTORED A  
BIG CHURCH AND  
HELD THREE  
DEGREES AND  
WROTE A BOOK...."

"NO APOLOGIES  
NECESSARY, SON—  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT  
GRACE."



Some would say the affirmation request goes too far, while others would argue that it doesn't go far enough. It appears such disagreement is part of modern Southern Baptist life.

There is one item all of us should keep in mind, however, regardless of our strongly-held opinions: the Lord will not be pleased if dissension of any kind in our ranks — for any reason, over any issue — means that even a *single* person anywhere in the world ultimately goes to hell for lack of a witness.

At this pivotal time in human history, may we give our best to the Savior who gave all for us.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Living in the real world of 'sexual orientation'

By Robert Knight, director  
Culture and Family Institute, Washington, D.C.

- A District of Columbia human rights commission ordered Georgetown University, a Catholic college, to violate church doctrine and sponsor a pro-homosexual group on campus. A court agreed, saying the District's "sexual orientation" law overrode the school's religious freedom.

- It didn't matter that neither "sexual orientation" nor sodomy are protected in the Constitution or that religion is specifically protected. In the hands of liberal judges, "sexual orientation" takes on a life of its own.

City officials in Portland, Maine, recently canceled a grant for a Salvation Army meals-on-

wheels program for senior citizens. Why? As a Christian denomination, the Salvation Army won't provide marital benefits to homosexual employees, thus running afoul of the city's "sexual orientation" law.

- In Canada, a "velvet curtain" is coming down as Canada adopts more "sexual orientation" laws. The mayor of London, Ontario, was hauled before Ontario's human rights commission and fined for declining to declare "Gay Pride Weekend."

- A Saskatchewan newspaper publisher and a man who bought an ad featuring a list of five biblical verses about homosexuality were fined \$4,500 each.

- The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council has warned Laura Schlessinger and James Dobson not to discuss homosexuality, or the radio stations that carry their shows will lose their licenses. Again, this is tolerance?

- Homosexual activists used to deny that they had anything to do with men demanding the right to wear dresses, but U.S. homosexual pressure groups have now added "transgender" rights to their list. Their goal is to create grounds for lawsuits on the basis of sexual confusion and cross-dressing, even in schools.

If Nashville's public officials add "sexual orientation" to the city's nondiscrimination code, they will provide instant legal special rights to any kind of sexual behavior, however perverse.

Knight also serves as a board member of the Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays organization. The Culture and Family Institute is an affiliate of Concerned Women for America. Visit their web site at [www.cultureandfamily.org](http://www.cultureandfamily.org).



# Missionaries fear Moscow a forgotten city

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — For decades Moscow was the capital of communism, the heart of atheism. Public worship was prohibited. The proclamation of the Gospel was forbidden. Christians surely gathered, but only in private.

The fall of the Soviet Union now has made communist Moscow a relic of the past. However, from an evangelical standpoint, it's hard to tell. Of the city's 12 million citizens, roughly 10,000 are Christian.

**Southern Baptist missionary Troy Bush** (right) and **Daniel McCollum**, a fellow International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, in prayer for the city of Moscow while standing in front of St. Basil's Cathedral. McCollum and Bush serve as IMB missionaries in Moscow. (BP photo)



senses a responsibility to spread Christ's message. "Moscow is so large and so diverse," Bush said recently in a telephone interview with Southern Seminary magazine, a publication of the seminary located in Louisville, Ky. "We as Southern Baptists are still in the early stages of our implementation of ministry and church planting in this area."

When the Soviet Union dissolved in the early 1990s, Christians had high hopes; the fall of communism had resulted in an openness to the Gospel previously unseen. For various reasons, it was slow to take hold in the Russian capital. Some Christian organizations

set up shop in Moscow but did the brunt of their work in the countryside. They assumed that Muscovites wouldn't be open.

Others looked at past Christian gatherings, such as the 1992 Billy Graham crusade, and decided that other Russian areas needed more attention. The result was Moscow placed on the back burner.

"Hence, what you had was a situation where Moscow was largely forgotten in terms of focused missions," said Bush, who has been in the country since December 1999. "Not until about the last two years have any major evangelical missions organizations clearly defined church planting and evangelis-

tic ministries in the city."

Bush, a 1999 Ph.D. graduate of Southern Seminary, works with members of his missions team to design strategies that will be implemented to reach the city's ethnic Russians. Part of his job involves equipping and mobilizing church-planting teams. Another part involves serving as a facilitator between Christians in Moscow and those around the world.

Bush's team has a goal of seeing 140 Baptist churches in Moscow within five years — a number that would equal about one church district. Currently, there are 23 churches. The team also has a website: reach-moscow.org.

To reach Muscovites with the Gospel, Bush said, "we do have to define what that means." He noted that Russians as a whole tend to be very philosophical. Because they enjoy philosophical discussions, they are quite open to discussing religious issues.

"The idea that most Muscovites were once atheists I don't think ever was true," Bush said. "I think the academia and the intelligentsia largely were atheists, but most Muscovites are religious and have some type of religious practices. The majority of the people today would still say they are [Russian] Orthodox, but the majority of them have no active participation in the Orthodox Church."

A city once void of public worship now finds itself at the heart of pluralism. Three mil-

lion citizens are Muslim. The city has 16 registered Buddhist groups and five Jewish synagogues. One study, Bush said, found more than 5,000 religious groups within the city.

"You have tremendous plurality in the city that is equal to most any major urban center in the world," he said. "At the same time, because of all the changes Russians have been through, you find that most Muscovites have very syncretistic worldviews."

"It's not uncommon to find someone who would be Orthodox and acknowledging that there is one supreme God and at the same time they may hold very, very strong elements of naturalism and rationalism. They also believe in reincarnation and see no contradiction at all."

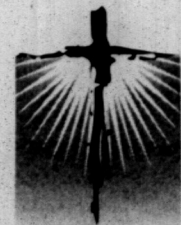
"For many of them, they would view him as so distant and so impersonal that a personal relationship with him is not something that's really achievable," Bush said. "It's

not even something that many of them pursue. Generally, they feel that their life is controlled by fate, an impersonal force."

So far, the Russian Baptist churches are small. "Pray for the pastors and the leaders in the Russian Baptist churches here in the city of Moscow," Bush said when asked how Christians could pray for his work.

"Just 10 years ago there was only one registered Baptist church in the entire city of Moscow. Today there are 23 in the Moscow Baptist Association. Most of these churches are small, most of them are struggling," he said.

"Pray that the Lord would lay upon peoples' hearts a burden for the city of the Moscow," Bush said. "[Pray] that the Lord would send workers for the harvest. We need workers."



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

*The Baptist*  
**Record**

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## Canadian vols soar

COCHRANE, Alberta, Canada (BP) — A record number of volunteers assisted Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists (CCSB) churches last year, with the number of volunteers serving in Canada doubling from 2001 to 2002. "The windows of heaven just opened up for us," D.K. Hale, CCSB national partnership/volunteer ministries consultant, said. "God has been good to us. We're just excited about it." According to statistics from the Canadian convention, more than 3,200 Southern Baptists from the United States served as volunteers in Canada last year and more than 1,600 Canadian Southern Baptists took part in CCSB-related projects in their own country. In 2001, nearly 1,600 Americans volunteered in Canada and almost 700 Canadians served as volunteers for projects within Canada. Included in the 2002 totals were more than 900 young people who took part in four World Changers projects last summer in Canada. The CCSB doesn't intend to rest on its laurels in developing its volunteer program, however. Planning is underway to construct a two-story, 50-by-80-foot building near the convention headquarters in Cochrane, Alberta, to house from 35-50 volunteers at a much reduced cost. In time, similar structures could be built in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. In addition, Jim Messner, a retired RCMP officer and member of Bow Valley Church in Cochrane, has begun preliminary work on launching a volunteer disaster relief program to help in case of fires, floods or other emergencies. Hale said the program would begin in the Calgary, Alberta, area but then could spread to other parts of Canada. The CCSB also is instituting a prayer ministry to supplement its volunteer and

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Names surface in search for president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary. The election on April 19 will likely be for Richard Land, Timothy George, Al Mohler, or Bob Agee, according to sources.

### 20 years ago

President Ronald Reagan proclaims 1983 as the "Year of the Bible" in the United States during a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington. "Inside the Bible's pages lie answers to all the problems man has ever known," Reagan told attendees.

### 50 years ago

W. A. Keel, pastor of Taylorsville Church for the last three-and-a-half years, is elected as secretary of the newly-created "Department of Negro Work" of the State Convention Board, according to an announcement by Chester L. Quarles, board executive secretary.



# Space Coast Baptists dealing with losses

MERRITT ISLAND, Fla. (BP) — Seven bright lights from candles gracing an American flag draped over a grand piano at First Church in Merritt Island, Fla., pierced a fog of sadness as churchgoers grappled with the reality of the Columbia space shuttle tragedy only the day before.

Seven astronauts were killed Feb. 1 as Columbia broke apart above Texas reentering the atmosphere at approximately 8

a.m. CST, just 16 minutes from its scheduled landing at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Just miles from the landing strip, the Merritt Island congregation is one of several Southern Baptist churches with many members either directly or indirectly employed by NASA, said Harold Brantley, director of missions for the Brevard Association.

Brantley, who has lived in the area 18 years and is the former pastor of First Church Clearlake in Cocoa, Fla., told the Florida Baptist Witness that NASA is important to the county. Describing the community as "very close," he said NASA is a major part of the county's economy and that many of the churches grew with the development of the Kennedy Space Center.

That connection is what prompted Curt Dodd, pastor of First Church, Merritt Island, to cancel a preaching engagement at his former church in Colorado to be with the congregation Sunday morning. In this church, where approximately 70% of the 5,000 members are connected in some way to NASA, the space industry has a tremendous influence, Dodd told the Florida Baptist Witness in an interview.

During the service, Dodd read aloud the names of each of the seven who perished, leading those gathered in worship to pray "specifically for the families" of those who "sacrificed their lives."

The pastor also prayed for NASA employees and contractors involved in the space program.

"Many in this congregation have touched with their hands Columbia. They have caressed the tiles and they have labored long," Dodd prayed.

"They have been involved for over two decades. Protect them mentally and emotionally and use this time in their lives to draw them closer.

"Show them you are a loving God," Dodd continued. "Let us minister as we have never ministered before. Thank you. In the midst of life's greatest darkness, you shine."

Acknowledging many "hurt deeply" as a result of the shuttle tragedy, Dodd told the congregation "it's times like this that often the big questions come up." Using the example of John the Baptist's life from Matthew 11:1-6, Dodd asked: "What do you do when things don't go as planned?"

John the Baptist "called sin, sin" and "minced no words," said Dodd, who said the disciple called on leaders of the day to repent. He shook things up. He didn't care about being "politically correct."

"Things disintegrate. Things not only in the sky but in our lives as well," Dodd said. "God's love is a good thing, but many people think believers are insulated from problems, but that's not true."



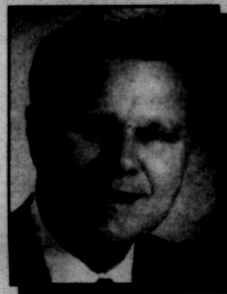
REMEMBERING ASTRONAUTS — Tributes to the seven astronauts killed Feb. 1 aboard space shuttle Columbia adorn the fence at the 60-ton black granite astronauts' memorial at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. (BP photo by Joni B. Hannigan)

## RECIPE FOR FUN

One day, toward the end of January, I was listening to the radio and I heard an advertisement that really caught my attention. In the background of this advertisement you could hear some familiar Christmas music and by this time we were about five weeks past Christmas! The Christmas music was playing in the background and the man's voice in the foreground was telling how wonderful Christmas was with all the presents and children, and then he said, "But, NOW the bills are coming due!"

I didn't really know what kind of ad this was, so I just assumed that it was for a bank, or a lending agency. But, then the pitch came — bring your check to a certain casino and there you can win enough money to pay off all of your bills. I thought to myself, "You have got to be kidding!" Here you have got folks that are up to their eyeballs in bills and debt and now they are hearing that they can actually gamble their way to debt reduction and into prosperity. The saddest thing about this is that the ad actually works! There are people who will end up with all, or a large portion, of their paycheck gone, but their bills will still be staring them in the face!

The gambling industry knows that it is in the makeup of our human nature to want to find some way to have a "quick fix" for all of life's problems. They are masters at packaging their spill in such a way that a person can be convinced that at the drop of a coin, or a few games of chance, they will be living high and rolling in the dough! One of the foundational pillars of the gambling industry is that most people



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

are looking for a "Get Rich Quick" scheme.

While that truth pulls people in, one of the unwavering features of gambling is that the House wins and you lose! Oh, I'm well aware of the fact that they run the pictures of smiling people who have won boo coos of dollars, but rest assured, they are few and far between from all of the millions of dollars that are taken away from people and families. Families that have their world shattered and their future altered by the despair brought on by gambling.

Gambling is designed so that you will lose! While the industry may package its product as entertainment, as fun and frolicking enjoyment, and as the way to get to the big dollars and high-finance — the reality is that it is built on, the principle that whoever gambles has got to lose so that the gambling operation can continue.

I was talking with a man in one of our towns where a large casino is located and he said to me, "This is one of the finest things that has ever happened to the state of Mississippi." I replied, "Do you actually believe that?" "Oh, absolutely!" he said. I asked him who built the casino and he called the name of the casino owners and said, "Well, they came in here and built it." I asked him

where he thought the casino people got the money to build it. He said, "Oh, they paid for it!" I asked, "Do you actually believe that they just came in here from out of state and graciously built that huge facility so that people could come and have fun?" "Well, yes, that's what they did," he replied. I then said to him, "As intelligent as you are, do you not realize that that entire facility and the whole operation that exists there is paid for by every person who comes in and loses what they came in with?" He looked at me as though what I said didn't register and he didn't understand what I was talking about. His response was, "No, they just came in here and built this." I said, "Exactly! And they are paying for it with money that the people from Mississippi, or wherever they come from, bring in and lose in gambling. The casinos win by making everybody else losers!"

I saw that he understood, but rather than responding with some word of agreement with my argument, he reacted defensively and said, "Well, the state still gets a lot of tax money from it." Is that all of the story related to gambling — that some people get pulled in with a "Get Rich Now" scheme and then end up losing? I wish that was the end

of the story, but it's not. There are families that have been shattered and lives that have been ended under the burden of losing, and losing, and losing. When people get down, in despair, having lost their money, their jobs, their families, even their health — then what do they do? Repeatedly, they turn to organizations that try to help and seek to understand. Gamblers Anonymous groups have sprung up all across the state because people cannot deal with the addiction by themselves. Churches and caring groups are appealed to by people who have no where else to turn.

The gambling operations do not have offices of benevolence. They could care less if you are penniless and will only care for you when you get your hands on some dollars to come back and lose. Gamblers are not necessarily bad, mean, dumb, weak, smart, or silly people — they are just people who get caught up in the attractiveness of the mirage of success offered by the gambling industry. For many of them, in time, the dream of great success becomes a terrible nightmare of hopelessness and failure.

Gamblers are people, just like the rest of us, who cannot deal with the failure of the flesh and the sinfulness of their own souls apart from a Savior who can come into their hearts and make a difference. That Savior is Jesus and He, and He alone, can take the mess of life and bring meaning to life. While the casinos specialize in taking people and turning them into losers, Jesus, God's wonderful saving Son, specializes in taking losers and turning them into eternal winners.

## SWBTS to be featured on Discovery Ch.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A 30-minute video segment about Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth will appear on the Discovery Channel Feb. 18. The segment is part of a 30-minute program called Champions of Industry, and will air at 6 a.m. CST. Shot on the seminary's Fort Worth campus and produced by Pat Summerall Productions, the segment includes interviews with Southwestern President Kenneth Hemphill and faculty members Richard Ross and Brig. Gen. James Spivey. Ross is one of the founders of the global True Love Waits abstinence campaign, and Spivey was formerly U.S. Army assistant chief of chaplains at the Pentagon. The segment also includes student interviews and descriptions of the seminary's core values, academic programs and newly constructed Leadership Development Complex.



# Swanberg prods Christians to lighten up

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Dennis Swanberg, whose humor is accented by his impersonations of Billy Graham and other luminaries, is a steady reflection of Proverbs 17:22, which relates a merry heart to good medicine. "I realize that folks don't always need the whole bottle, but they need a spoonful at least," he said.

He reminds people that Jesus came to give them not just life but life more abundantly. "As God's people, we ought be some of the happiest people out there," Swanberg, also known as "The Swan," told Baptist Press. "We're saved, we're going to heaven, we're joint heirs with the King."

Swanberg grew up in Austin, Texas, and after graduating from Baylor University in Waco, he earned both the master of divinity and the doctor of ministry degrees at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. After 23 years as a pastor, he stepped into what he calls the fulltime ministry of encouragement in 1995.

Swanberg said he has imitated Billy Graham since childhood. "I'd see him on television, and at the end of the crusade in front of that camera on TV, he'd say, '...and some of you are watching by way of television. Maybe you're at your own home or sitting in a bar, but I want you to write me: Billy Graham, Minneapolis, Minn.'," Swanberg said, imi-



Swanberg

tating Graham's voice. "So I've always loved Billy Graham."

Once he made the decision to leave the pastorate, FamilyNet, the television network

of the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board, booked him for about 75 episodes of a weekly variety show called Swan's Place. In 2002, Trinity Broadcast Network tapped him for a show called The Dennis Swanberg Show.

Swanberg has worked with Focus on the Family for 15 years as a motivational speaker and comedian. He has spoken at Southern Baptist Conventions and pastor's conferences and has written two books: *Is Your Love Tank Full?* and *Swan's Soup and Salad*. He noted that a project with the International Mission Board is being planned.

"As a humorous impressionist, humor doesn't authenticate the Gospel. The Gospel helps authenticate our use of humor," Swanberg said. "When you're a Christian humorist, there's a method to the madness: to lead people to Christ."

"Jesus knew how to penetrate people," Swanberg continued. "He used satire and irony. Sometimes it would seem like a story was a little bit embellished, all to make a point and get people to see the twinkle in his eye."

The Dennis Swanberg Show airs Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. CST on Trinity Broadcast Network. More information about The Swan may be obtained at his website, [www.dennisswanberg.com](http://www.dennisswanberg.com).

## 'Baptist' gone from name of Jibla hospital

JIBLA, Yemen (ABP) — A former Southern Baptist-sponsored hospital in Yemen, site of a terrorist attack that killed three International Mission Board (IMB) workers Dec. 30, reopened Feb. 1 under a new name, new leadership, and heightened security.

The facility, formerly Jibla Baptist Hospital, is now owned and operated by the Muslim-led Yemeni government. The IMB followed through with a long-planned transfer of the hospital to Yemen's ministry of health Dec. 31.

## Analysis: Reordering financial dreams is required

By Larry Burkett  
Baptist Press Columnist

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (BP) — As a result of world conditions today, the financial dreams of many people have been impacted by the decline in the value of their Individual Retirement Accounts and mutual funds. Many who planned on early retirement now wonder whether they might have to work until they're age 70 or older. Others face the prospect of being unable to help their kids with college costs as much as they had once hoped they could. In fact, all of us have realized that we must revise financial plans we had just a few years ago.

### REVISE YOUR PLANS

In order to modify your plans, first there must be plans available for revision. The problem is that most Americans have lifestyles with vague dreams but no solid plans to fulfill those dreams. Now, more than ever before in recent history, families need to develop specific plans that will conserve their finances for the future.

A written plan is important for everyone, but it's an absolute necessity for those in financial debt. For God's people, a written plan is crucial because most Christians have lost the point of reference between needs, wants, and desires.

Needs provide basic requirements, such as food, clothing, jobs, home, medical insurance, and so forth. *If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content* (1 Timothy 6:8). Wants involve choices about quality:

steak versus hamburger or a new car versus a used car. *Your adornment must not be merely external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God* (1 Peter 3:3-4).

Desires are choices that should be made only with surplus funds after all other obligations have been met. *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world* (1 John 2:15-16).

### DETERMINE WHAT'S ESSENTIAL

Stop spending for things that aren't absolutely essential for living (Proverbs 21:17), and utilize your individual skills to begin to cut down on expenditures that aren't necessary. Assess what things you can do on your own and eliminate frivolities. Once a family begins to do these things, whether in debt or not, it can become challenging and fun, and it will help stabilize your family life.

### THINK BEFORE BUYING

Christians who are in debt (and those who aren't) should evaluate every purchase (Proverbs 24:3). Is it a necessity? Have you assessed whether it's a need, a want or a desire?

Do you really need to subscribe to that magazine or belong to book, CD, or movie clubs while you owe others? Are you looking for the best possible buys you can get, or do you pur-

chase simply because you have a credit card? Do you buy things that devalue quickly or require costly upkeep? (Things like boats, swimming pools, and sports cars fall into this category.)

### STOP BUYING ON CREDIT

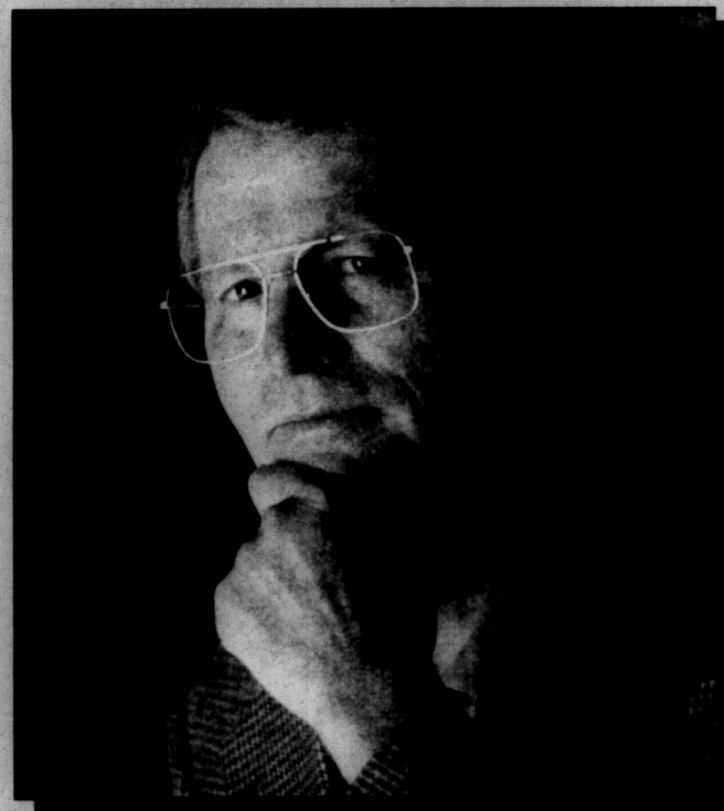
Christians in debt should begin buying on a cash-only basis. Those with assets that can be converted into cash often wonder: "Should I sell this asset and pay off the debts?" Maybe, but only if the person first learns new spending habits; otherwise the symptom is treated rather than the problem.

If you're in debt from the misuse of credit cards, stop using them. Cut up the cards and mail them back to their respective companies. In a letter, tell them not to send you any more, explain your plan for paying that debt, and then commit yourself to buying solely on a cash basis.

### PRACTICE SAVING

A Christian should develop the practice of saving money on a regular basis — even if you're in debt. Even a few dollars a month helps develop a discipline of saving. This doesn't mean to store up large amounts of money and fail to pay your creditors. Everyone in our society living above the poverty level has the capability to save money, but many don't because they believe that the amount they can save is so small it's meaningless. Just start to save small amounts on a regular basis and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Some believe that God frowns on Christians saving money but God's Word says, *There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it*



Burkett

up (Proverbs 21:20).

### PLAN YOUR DREAM

No one can accurately predict the economic future. However, if you'll utilize these biblical suggestions, develop realistic plans and stick with those plans, you'll take a financial giant step.

Plans can always be revised, but first your plan must be available for revision. Put these steps into practice and you can still help with your children's education. Be realistically creative in your planning, and do it God's way. Who knows, it may still be possible for that early retirement, even if it's not quite as early as you first thought.

Burkett is chairman of the board of Crown Financial Ministries. A Southern Baptist layman based in Gainesville, Ga., Burkett is the host of the national *Money Matters* radio program and author of two resources published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention: *How Much Is Enough?* 30 Days to Personal Revival, and *Jesus on Money*.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Smith**  
(662) 323-2963.

**Charles E. Smith** is relocating **Charles Smith Ministries** to Oktibbeha County on March 10. He can be reached by calling

**Northrup Chapel Church**, Quitman, recently held an appreciation day for **William A. (John) Taylor** for 50 years of service as a deacon. Pictured (from left) are **Norman Robinson** and **Taylor**.

March 9 at 10:30 a.m. at **Liberty Church**, Flowood.

**Alcorn Associations** will hold a workshop for **Church media librarians** on Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the **Alcorn Baptist Association Office**, Corinth. **Stephen Gateley**, Research-Reader Librarian at **E.C. Dargan Library**, LifeWay, Nashville, Tenn., will be the instructor. **Gateley** will be teaching **Selecting Media for Your Church Library**. Reservations can be by calling (662) 286-8215. For more information, call (662) 287-4084 or the associational office.

**Robinson and Taylor**

**Copiah and Lincoln Associations** will hold a workshop for **Church media librarians** on Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the **Best Inns and Suites**, Brookhaven. **Peggy Tacon**, Media Library Director at **Dauphin Way Church**, Mobile, Ala., will be the instructor. **Tacon** will be teaching **Dewey/Sears Classification and Preparing Audio-Visuals for Circulation**. For more information, call (601) 734-6951 or (601) 894-9017.



**Mission Friends Indian Springs Church, Laurel**

The 1st and 2nd grade of **Indian Springs Church, Laurel**, gave \$38.56 to the **Lottie Moon Christmas offering**. The class made posters and had a

birthday party for Jesus. The **Mission Friends** gave



**McGuire, Gant, Sadler, & Harden**

**Liberty Church, Liberty**, held a **Baptismal Service** on Jan. 5. The candidates ranged in age from 7 to 73 years. Pictured (from left) are **Gerald McGuire**, **Tyson Gant**, **James Sadler**, pastor, and **Casey Harden**.

**Squire Parsons** will be at **First Church, Fulton**, on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. **Tommy Winders** is pastor. For more information, call (662) 862-3207.

**Taylor Field**, pastor of **Graffiti Church, New York City**, New York, will give his testimony about his mission work in the lower east side of the city on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. and



**Deacons of Antioch Church, Monticello**

\$25.44 to the **Lottie Moon offering**. **Mike West** is pastor.

**Antioch Church, Monticello**, recognized **Plez Crane** on Jan. 12 for 58 years of service as a deacon. Pictured (from left, front) **Eugene Boyd**, **Jimmy Beeson**, **Tim Roberts**, pastor, **Crane**, **James Earl Crane**, **Ron Pevey**, (back) **Donnie McGuffee**, **Charles Crane**, **Glen Blackwell**, and **Alvin Brown**.



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**1st and 2nd graders of Indian Springs Church, Laurel**

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DINNER SERVED  
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BAPTIST SERVICE

**March 30**

**Two Great Services**  
9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
(No Sunday School)



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Lavelle Cooper and Neal Brown

The RAs and GAs of Wesson Church, Wesson, attended a Christmas Party at The Baptist Children's Village Dickerson Place, Brookhaven, on Dec. 14.

First Church, Covington, La., will hold a senior adult spring celebration, Adding Life to Your Years, March 10-11. Bill Thorn, Jeanine Bozeman, Abby Shields, and Jane Terry will be speaking. Dennis Lee, a ventriloquist, will provide entertainment Monday evening. For more information, call (985) 892-2149.

Williamsburg Church, Collins, will host a sweet-heart banquet beginning at Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. The Gary Miller family and

Karen Hardy will bring a gospel concert at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Oakland Heights Church, Meridian, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for their Phase

One building at their new location. Construction is expected to be completed by early 2004. Pictured are members of the Long Range Planning and Transition Committee.



RAs and GAs of First Church, Wesson

Arrowood Church, Meridian, will hold an appreciation day for Agnes White and G. L. Boles honoring them on their 90th

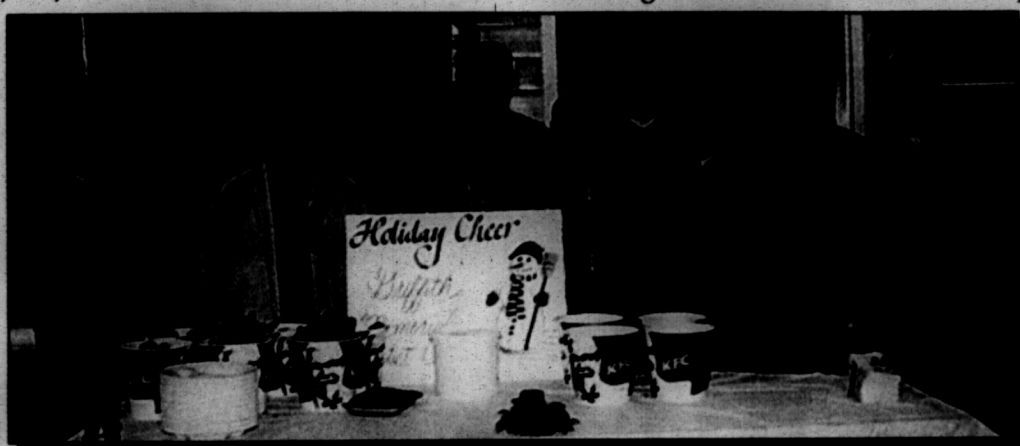
birthday on Feb. 16. Services are at 11 a.m. and a covered dish lunch will be served at noon. Ralph Henson is pastor.

Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, has been presented with a \$25,000 matching challenge to purchase Bibles to be sent to China. The church is asking for help from all churches, groups, or individuals. The challenge will continue through March 2. For more information on sending your gift, call (228) 475-3471 or (228) 475-1318.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. N-2 Jesus will perform and all area musicians are invited to participate.

The Men's Ministry of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, recently hosted a Christmas Party for the patients at the Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield.

The women of Big Level Church, Wiggins, made bibs for residents of Azalea Gardens Nursing Center. The bibs were presented after the first WMU meeting in January. Pictured (from left) are Lavelle Cooper and Neal Brown.



Men's Ministry of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson



Oakland Heights Church Groundbreaking, Meridian

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## OBITUARIES



**Kenneth Lane Kelly** died Jan. 21 at the North Mississippi Medical Center after extended illness.

**Kelly** served as

pastor at Union Church, Sardis; Old Union Church, Shannon; and as interim pastor at several churches in the surrounding area.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry Kelly, Chesterville; a daughter, Stephanie Kelly Cagle and her husband, Baldwyn; two sons, Lane Kelly and his wife, Fulton, and Wayne Kelly, Chesterville; his mother, Wilma Kelly, Chesterville; and a sister, Joyce East and her husband, Elon of Chesterfield.

Services were at W. E. Pegues Funeral Home, Tupelo, Jan. 23.

**Joe Gambrell Canzoneri**, Jackson, passed away Jan. 24 at the VA Medical Center Nursing Home, Jackson. A Memorial Service was held at First Church, Jackson, on Feb. 1.

Canzoneri attended Mississippi College, Baylor University, and Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Canzoneri was the assistant pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, and the pastor of Ebenezer Church, Ebenezer, and Hickory Ridge Church, Florence. He also served in the United States Air Force.

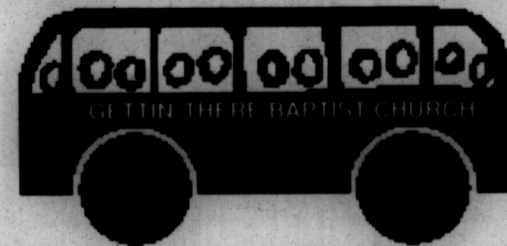
Survivors are Jeanette Bullard Canzoneri, wife of 55 years; sons, Joe B. Canzoneri, Decatur, Ga., Paul Canzoneri and wife Beth, Vestavia Hills, Ala., David Canzoneri and wife Carrie, Commerce, Texas; sister Antonina Canzoneri, Clinton; and brother Robert Canzoneri, Westerville, Ohio.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the IMB or Missions First in care of First Church, Jackson, or the Alzheimer's Association, Jackson.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Byron & Joyce Mathis and Fred Smith

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently held a Bible Study entitled Strength for the Journey.

**Diamondhead Church,** Diamondhead, celebrated the first step in their Growing in Faith building program on Dec. 22 by holding a groundbreaking service. Pictured (from left) are Annie Lou Lawshe, Kent Billingsley, Bill Warren, pastor, Buck Parker, and Toxey Barnes.



Jaybird Saints of Gray's Creek Church, Hernando



John Lewis, Merle Ivy, Ernie Sadler, & Abel Agravante



Diamondhead Church Groundbreaking, Diamondhead

The Grays Creek Church, Hernando, Jaybird Saints enjoyed a day outing to Reflection Lake, near Oxford, to attend a Christmas program on Dec. 20. The ministry is to provide outreach, prayer support, and education for senior adults in the church and community.

Byron Mathis and his wife Joyce were special guests at the 39ers Christmas Party at Calvary Church, Pascagoula. Pictured (from left) are Mathis, his wife, and Fred Smith.

The WOM of Calvary Church, Pascagoula, exceeded

Sadler, interim pastor, and Abel Agravante.



Calvary Church Strength for the Journey Bible Study, Pascagoula

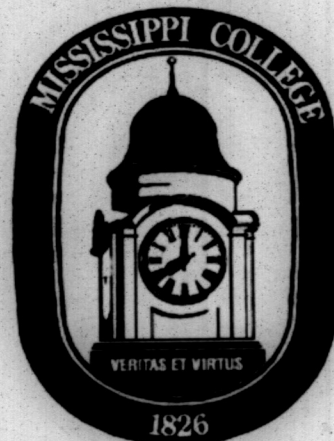
their Lottie Moon goal of \$2,200. Pictured (from left) are John Lewis, Merle Ivy, Ernie

**New Hope Church,** Foxworth, will hold high attendance day, Trusting in the Risen Christ, on Feb. 16. Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. The New Life Quartet will be singing during worship. A covered dish lunch will be served.

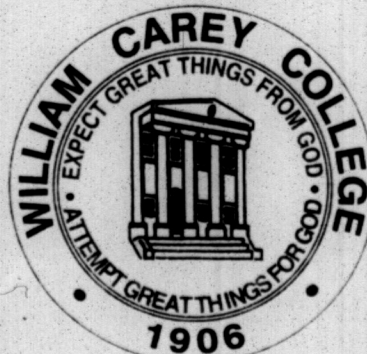
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The Education Commission of the MS Baptist Convention is sponsoring a college fair in your area designed to introduce all interested students to the three Baptist colleges. There will be entertainment and representatives from each school present to answer questions. Please contact any of the three Mississippi Baptist Colleges for more information.

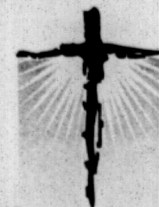
**CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI**  
Thursday, February 13, 2003  
Highland Baptist Church  
Meridian, MS

**SOUTH MISSISSIPPI**  
Thursday, February 20, 2003  
First Baptist Church  
Biloxi, MS

**NORTH MISSISSIPPI**  
Thursday, March 6, 2003  
West Jackson Street Baptist Church  
Tupelo, MS

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
(Special parent session at 7:30 p.m.)

A \$1000 scholarship to any one of the three colleges will be given away at each fair.



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## COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

The William Carey College School of Education and Psychology received approval by the Mississippi Department of Education to offer add-on licen-

sure in school psychometry and school counseling. For more information, call (601) 318-6774 or (604) 318-6480.

## STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Laurel, has called **Shannon Slover** as full-time Minister of Youth. Slover was previously Minister of Youth at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

**Danny Griffin**, a native of Dyersville, Tenn., has been called as pastor of Cherry Street Church, Clarksdale. He was ordained to the ministry at the church on Jan. 12. Pictured (from left) M.C. Johnson,



M.C. Johnson, Danny & Phyllis Griffin

## HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

**Antioch, Columbus:** Feb. 16-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, evangelist.



Futral

**Fellowship, Starkville:** Feb. 23-26; tent crusade, In God We Trust; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Executive Director and Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Steve and Becky

Carver, One Way Ministries, music; Cornell Daughtry, pastor; Byron Green, music and youth minister; for more information, call (662) 320-9988.



Steve & Becky Carver

## BLESSED CONFERENCE

Editor:

I want to share my feeling through The Baptist Record related to Sonny Adkins and State Evangelism Conference on February 27-28 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

I want to commend our state's Evangelism Director, Sonny Adkins, for the program personalities at this year's State Evangelism Conference. It blessed me deeply to see the blessed blending of out-of-state and in-state Christian sharing in the conference. Also, I was blessed by the leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and the state and local persons sharing together with us about Jesus and how to effectively share the Gospel with the lost.

We all need each other! I am delighted to be a Christian, a part of a local church, association, state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. May we all seek to share Jesus till the last person on earth has heard about Jesus! I know we Southern Baptists are not perfect, but our desire to reach the world for Jesus deserves the respect of the world!

Grady Crowell  
Assoc. Missions Dir.  
Clarke Association  
Quitman

## THANKS FOR SERVICE

Editor:

Donald Frazier, in his letter to the editor in the January 31 issue, did Mississippi Baptists a service when he revealed where the moderates, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), intend to

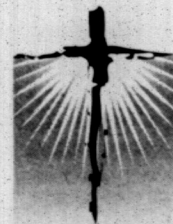
take our convention. They want to make it another Texas. Steps have already been taken in that direction. After cutting all ties with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), they will partner with CBF and other moderate/liberal groups like Texas has done.

The Baptist Record has continuously lambasted SBC leaders on the editorial page. There have been numerous very erroneous and unseemly attacks on SBC leaders in general, and on individuals like James Merritt, Morris Chapman, Jack Graham, Ed Young, Richard Land, Paul Pressler, Charles Stanley, Jerry Rankin, and Jerry Vines. At least we know that The Baptist Record likes to keep its powder dry.

Yet, I have never seen a negative comment about the CBF. Surely CBF leaders are not perfect. How about a little balance rather than continuing to use the editorial page to turn people against the SBC? For starters, you could tell about CBF activists being trained to take over churches, associations, and state conventions and partner them with CBF. Tell about how the CBF is holding meetings and getting into any church or organization in this state that it can, to turn people against the SBC. How about exposing the blatant liberalism that infests the CBF? This is well-documented.

Wake up Mississippi, before it's too late. We need to let it be known that, "this ain't Texas."

P.M. South  
Mathiston



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**PIANIST NEEDED AT FIRST BAPTIST Church of Byram.** Call (601) 372-3156.

**FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a P/T Youth Minister. Please send resume to 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232, Attn: Personnel Department.

**PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss.** is currently seeking a full-time Youth

Minister. Send resumes to Personnel Ministry Team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 North Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.

**JASPER COUNTY BAPTIST Association** is seeking a Director of Missions. The position is part-time, working w/22 churches. For more information, call (601) 764-2471 or email: jcba@bayspringstel.net. Or to apply, please send resume to Missions Committee, JCBA, P.O. Box 385, Bay Springs, MS 39422-0385, postmarked no later than 2/28/03.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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menu planning, staff supervision, meal preparation and purchasing required. If interested, contact (877) 354-6336 or thughes@tnbaptist.org.

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**WEST SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH** is taking bids on eighteen padded oak pews, along with two pulpit chairs and one communion table. Call (601) 989-2359 for information.

**SILVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH** (avg. worship attendance 1,200) is seeking a full-time minister of worship to lead our contemporary worship services, direct large choir, praise team and orchestra. Please send resume to 7236 Bonny Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

**RECEIVING RESUMES THROUGH** February 28th for "conservative" senior pastor to shepherd Southern Baptist Church of 200 plus members in Northwest Arkansas. Send to 2411 S.W. 10th St., Bentonville, Arkansas 72712.

**THE BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** IS

now receiving resumes from all who are interested in the position of Director Of Missions. Please send resumes to: Linden Baptist Church, Attention Rev. Billy Harris, P.O. Box 481088, Linden, AL 36748. DEADLINE: All resumes must be received by March 15, 2003.

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**1992 MCI 102C3, 47 PASSENGER** motor coach, tv-vcr, restroom 8V92 engine, 5 speed, \$59,000. Please call John, Cline Tours at (601) 605-4483 or 1-800-233-5307.



# Women's track adds twist to conference

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor



**YOU CAN RESPOND  
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*Simply share the following  
prayer with God in your own  
words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from  
eternal death.  
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my  
relationship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ  
into my life. From this time  
on, I want to live in a loving  
relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my  
Savior and Lord.*)

*But as many as received him, to  
them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those  
who believe in his name  
(John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact  
a local Baptist church for  
spiritual guidance.

**Mueller (standing)**



While the traditional State Evangelism Conference was being presented in the sanctuary of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, on January 27-28, a new conference was running parallel to it in the Fellowship Hall.

The Mississippi Baptists Woman's Missionary Union co-sponsored the first women's track along with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism Department. With the theme, Radical Christianity, the conference was designed to call women to share God's heart in evangelism.

Jaye Martin, women's evangelism strategist for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, was the key conference leader. The conference included worship led by Karen Hardy and Blake Scaffidel, and testimonies by Patsy Bozeman, Jean Adkins, and Audrey Hector.

Martin is a Tennessee native, graduating from the University of Tennessee and ultimately moving to Houston and becoming a member of First Church, Houston. Under pastor John Bisagno, "I grew in the Lord," said Martin.

Later, Martin received a degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

"I just generally served after that," she said, "I was sort of an overexcited housewife, and

was soon asked to oversee women's ministry in the church. Ultimately, I was made minister of evangelism, women, and prayer, and served in that position for eight years."

NAMB called her to serve five-and-a-half years ago.

Martin is the originator of HeartCall, the women's evangelism strategy provided by NAMB. "We want to help women realize that they can share Christ wherever they are and help make their current women's ministries evangelistic," said Martin.

"Men talk, and women feel," said Martin, referring to how the different genders tend to evangelize. "Women don't think that way. They lead from the heart. So, we want women to see God's calling on them to share his heart."

NAMB provides several materials under the HeartCall umbrella, including Hearttalk, an evangelism witnessing booklet for women; a leader's guide for using the booklet; a women's devotional book titled HeartCall: The Call to Prayer; and HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart, a four-week study focusing on Colossians 4:2-6 which teaches women to pray, to watch for opportunities to share the Gospel, to make sure their walk and talk live up to each other, and to study the Word of God.

"We use several different strategies," Martin said, "such



**FOR THE LADIES** — Jaye Martin, women's evangelism strategist for the North American Mission Board, shares a lighter moment with the conferees in the women's track of the State Evangelism Conference in Tupelo January 27-28. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

as Christmas and other parties geared toward evangelism. We've also found there are other servant activities we can be involved in, sort of like the umbrella carriers at Wal-Mart."

"Women are naturally relational," Martin continued. "We want to teach them to take those relationships to the next level."

The women's conference, like the State Evangelism Conference, is supported by the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information on HeartCall, Martin can be contacted at NAMB, 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, GA 30022. Telephone: (770) 410-6352. Web site: [www.namb.net/heartcall](http://www.namb.net/heartcall).

## Mueller offers formula for reaching young people

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Understanding youth culture is a key step in helping teenagers become mature, thinking Christians, said Walt Mueller, founder and president of the Center for Youth/Parent Understanding (CPYU) based in Elizabethtown, Pa.

"We don't need to think for youth, but think with them, so when they are adults

they can think as mature Christians," he said, "[Teens] are at the point of making faith their own."

Mueller, who has been studying youth culture more than 25 years, is the author of the award-winning book, Understanding Today's Youth Culture. He was one of the featured speakers at Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) sessions at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

Mueller encourages parents and youth ministers to interact with teens and help them process decisions in light of biblical revelation. Before this type of dialogue can happen, he said adults must research and develop an understanding of youth culture. Discovering culture can be quite shocking to the average Christian parent or youth minister, he said, but it is a needed step in reaching out to teens.

Mueller pointed to the apostle Paul's Mars Hill sermon as a biblical precedent for interacting with culture. Recorded in Acts 17:16-34, Paul showed that he understood the culture by framing the gospel in a way that spoke directly to his listeners, but he did not change the message.

In much the same way, being culturally informed will help adults understand the struggles teens face and address issues that are relevant to them. Mueller said the goal should be to draw young people into a deeper walk with Christ, to help them be "in the world, but not of the world." The process includes teaching them to find answers in God's Word and think "Christianly."

Youth ministers and parents should begin by studying mass media, Mueller said, noting that it must be done carefully, prayerfully and only with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

"Don't cross the line and go to a place that will cause you to sin," Mueller warned. The goal, he said, is "knowing" the culture and not "becoming" the culture.

Today's teens are especially impacted by magazines, music, movies and the Internet. Each is sending a message to youth, Mueller said, and discovering these cultural messages will help build dialog.

"Don't feel pressure to act, look and talk like kids. You can't change who you are, but you can be a person who is vulnerable and cares," Mueller said.

Magazines are a special source of concern for Mueller. He spends time reading and "deconstructing" magazines geared toward teens. He examines covers, reads stories and studies ads. What he finds "grieves" him.

Messages about physical appearance, sex, and mystical spirituality are subjects he finds throughout magazines geared to adults and teens alike.

Studies show that stories, ads, and photos that are unfit for adults are being read and viewed by an increasingly younger audience.

Despite all of the negatives, hope is not lost for today's teens, Mueller said. God wants to use teens as "salt and light" in the world to bring about change.

Mueller encouraged the ministers at YMI to do their part in the process by seeking to understand their youth and helping them biblically "think through" the difficult issues.

The YMI at New Orleans Seminary can be accessed at [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org).



# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Its Purpose

Psalm 19:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

By Shirley Stough

When planning a journey to an unfamiliar destination, a traveler consults a map to plan the best route. Before a team plays a game, coaches and team plan and prepare before game day. Whatever we do, we need to prepare for it if we wish to realize our ultimate potential and have the best positive outcome. Doesn't this principle also apply to Christian living? As Christians we need to be well equipped to live for God in all times from ordinary to difficult and corrupt times. The authoritative guide for Christians is God's inspired Word, the Bible.

The Bible gives us a perfect standard by which we can measure our conduct and beliefs. Its purpose is to lead us to salvation

and to provide us with doctrine and standards for a godly life-style. In Psalm 19 David praises the Lord for revealing Himself in nature and in the law, which meets our spiritual needs. In verses 7-11, David uses four categories for the Word: law, statutes, precepts and ordinances. All of these words refer to counsel or instruction. The Bible is the perfect place to go for counsel or instruction from our Heavenly Counselor. When we consult the Bible, we receive counsel that is perfect, trustworthy, right, pure, enlightening, sure and righteous. David felt no amount of wealth or delicacy could match the value of God's word or the joy it gave. David's view of Scripture is as applicable today as it was in his time. We must allow the Bible to

Stough

teach us how to put together a life molded to the characteristics of God. Then we will have the greatest wealth and the sweetest delicacy of all! We measure ourselves by standards. Scripture allows us to see the ways we fall short of reaching God's standard for us. Our sins fall into two categories. The first category includes those sins we fall into unintentionally and those we do not realize we have committed. We need to be able to see these sins in order to repent and receive forgiveness. Only through God are we able to see these sins. Another category of sin is intentional sin, sin of deliberate rebellion against God. This type of sin will control us if we do not seek enlightenment through the Word. The Word can convict of sin, lead to repentance, and keep us from becoming a slave to sin.

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul wrote to, instruct and to encourage Timothy in his Ephesian ministry.

Timothy was having a difficult time in his ministry because false teachers were introducing challenging doctrine and ideas. Paul wanted Timothy to remain strong despite the hardships caused by these false teachers. He assured Timothy that the truth he had learned from his grandmother, mother, and Paul was completely reliable. Early in Timothy's life, his mother and grandmother had taught him the Holy Scriptures, a reference to the Old Testament. This early teaching prepared Timothy to have faith in Christ Jesus. One purpose of the Bible is to lead a person to salvation through faith in Jesus. Like Timothy, many of us are indebted to faithful people who helped us learn the Bible, accept Christ as our Savior, and live a Christian life. Paul reminded Timothy that all Scripture is the inspired Word of God. God gave us His Word as a handbook for Christian living and Christian service. The doctrine in God's Word is

correct and is reliable in resisting and rejecting false doctrine and ideas. God's Word will convict us of sin and show us the way to get back on the right track. It provides us with all we need to know to live a righteous life. If we invest our time in reading, studying, and following its teachings, we will be prepared to undertake any tasks God has for us.

God gave us the Bible so that we can know Him and His wisdom through Jesus. As Christians we know that Jesus achieved the victory over sin and death for us. We will be with Him in Heaven one day, but what do we do in the meantime? God wants us to become more like Jesus each day. We are to live, love, trust and obey like Jesus. How do we reach this goal? Why not go to God's word - our power source of transformation? His Word will guide our daily lives and feed our souls.

Stough is member of First Church, Picayune.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Following God's direction

2 Samuel 1:1-2:7

By Don Wilson

The disciple's darkest day had faded, but they could not erase the image of their Lord Jesus drooping, sagging, and eventually dying on the cross. Another sleepless night almost past, Peter and John must have been pacing the floor wondering what they were going to do now that Jesus was gone. Then the banging on the door, the almost hysterical woman screaming on the other side bringing an unbelievable message: "HE IS NOT THERE!"

The same Jesus who died and was placed in a tomb near the crucifixion site had exited the tomb. Some had felt the tremors from a rolling stone, soldiers who saw it became as dead men, and a trio of women had actually talked to Him. He was alive! In the days that followed Jesus

appeared to His own followers to convince them that He really was a living Lord.

I. HEAR AND BELIEVE: John 20:14-16, 18

Peter and John have already raced to the tomb and now are gone. Mary Magdalene is still hanging around. Now she looked up and saw two angels who asked her why she was crying. She was not thinking of resurrection, but that someone had come and taken Jesus' body. She turned and there He was, but for some reason, she did not recognize Him. When He asked her reason for weeping, she still did not know that it was really Jesus. Then Jesus spoke her name. "Mary!" he said. Then she knew. Jesus knew her by name, and when she heard, she believed.

Jesus is still alive today. He

Wilson

still shows up and calls us by name. We still can hear Him speak to us individually. His teaching impacts my life, but most of all I want to be close. I cannot cling to His feet to hold Him on earth (nor would He allow Mary to do that), but I can cling to Him, and that is what I will do. When He speaks my

name, I believe.

II. SEE AND BELIEVE:

John 20:19-20, 24-28

Before the day was over ten of the disciples were hiding behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. At least some of them had seen the empty tomb and the thrown-aside head wrapping. Some of the women were already saying they had seen Him, but they had seen nothing of Him. They cowered in fear and talked among themselves about their own theories about what had happened, and then Jesus stood in their midst. He spoke with a common greeting: "Peace to you." Then He showed Himself to them. They

must have thought it was a ghost, but then He showed them the hands with holes in them where the nails had torn His flesh. He showed them His side where the soldier's spear had pierced His heart. They saw Him and they were glad. Now they believed!

Thomas, however, was missing from the group that night. When he heard the disciple's tale, he refused to believe unless he saw what all the rest of them had seen. Then Jesus appeared in the same way He had the week before. This time, Jesus had His attention focused on one man in the group-the unbelieving one. "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (20:27). To say that Thomas was looking at scars is probably inaccurate; he is sticking his finger through His hands and into His side.

I have a terrible scar on my wrist from an accident I had last year while wrestling a garden tiller. It is a permanent reminder to me of how careful I

should be when I use that machine. You cannot look at my scar and mistake it for Jesus'. His was one that could only have gotten there by enduring crucifixion. No doubt now for Thomas! He had seen His Lord and His God! Now He believed too!

III. READ AND BELIEVE: John 20:29-31

These verses actually bridge the gap of time between that moment when Jesus conversed with Thomas and this moment. Jesus understood that when He returned to Heaven that people would have to believe without seeing as Thomas did. "Blessed are they," he said. Then John, the writer of this book, explained his purpose for writing. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (20:31). They heard, they saw, and they believed. I read, hear through His Spirit, and see Him, and I believe, too.

I have life in His name.

Wilson is pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church, Dumas.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to accept news and photographs of special events that take place in churches or at the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in the Baptist Record must be either by word or letter, to be published on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper.

THE BAPTIST

All news items should be typed and double-spaced. The name of the person submitting the news should be typed at the bottom of the page. The name of the church or organization should be typed at the bottom of the page.

Articles that are not double-spaced will not be published. The Baptist Record is not responsible for the return of unsolicited articles.



# Laurel couple spans globe to spread Gospel

**HELPING THE SICK** — Gina Headrick (right), who travels the world with her businessman husband Richard to share the Gospel, comforts an unidentified woman with leprosy during one of their many mission trips abroad. (BP photo)



ST. LOUIS (BP) — A tall, bearded man clad in fatigues leaped from the taxicab in front of one of the city's most prestigious hotels. The alert bellman quickly inquired of the stranger, whose ponytail extended to his waist, "Are you dropping off or picking up?"

Richard Headrick of Laurel, Miss., president and chairman of the board of 13 national and international corporations, tried to politely explain to the hotel employee that he was not the taxi driver but that he and his wife Gina, along with their pilot and his wife, would be registering as guests of the Adam's Mark hotel.

The Headricks, members of Salem Heights Church in Laurel, had just arrived in St. Louis in their own private airplane, inspired from a hurried 19-day, nine-country tour of encouragement

visiting students from Southeastern Seminary who are finishing their missions degrees by two years of evangelism and ministry on the field.

Richard and Gina spend more than 270 days a year away from their homes in Laurel and southeastern Wyoming, sometimes traveling for business purposes, but most often making spiritual connections in countries quite hostile to the Gospel of Christ.

Headrick, however, was not always committed to such noble missions. The enterprising businessman grew up working in a sign business founded by his father in Mississippi in 1927. His driven, ambitious spirit soon led him to establish his own sign and billboard company that prospered for years.

He had grown up in a Christian home and became a respected lay preacher in area churches, fueling the fires of the Christian faithful on Sundays but pursuing dark international adventures during the week. He was living two lives — one publicly for Christ and another sowing wild oats for the devil that, at times, led him to brushes with the law.

Gina, a trusted employee and devoted Christian, knew about both sides of Richard's personality and soon lost faith in her boss, though she and a close friend continued to pray for his redemption.

Sid Hughes, a respected Christian associate, sat down with his fallen friend, and during that conversation the entrepreneur recognized the truth about himself, a person he now describes as "counterfeit." He had acknowledged Jesus as mankind's Savior, but for years he had pursued his own selfish desires, refusing to take Jesus into his heart.

That day the Master took over, and a new man was born.

At the same time, his business suffered what others would have described as irreversible losses, millions in debt. With steely determination coupled to the grace of God, he quickly reclaimed his credit standing and soon had 4,000 billboards scattered throughout several states.

God further rewarded his faithfulness. Gina had found a new respect for the man she once held in such low esteem and the unlikely couple soon became husband and wife, dedicating their new partnership to doing God's will, no matter what the cost.

Headrick sold his first billboard company, often telling friends and strangers, "The money belongs to God, not to Gina and me." They initiated two nonprofit cor-



**GLOBAL PASSION** — Richard Headrick (right), an international businessman and a member of Salem Heights Church in Laurel, delivers a Gospel message to children during one of his trips into Asia. (BP photo)

porations, The Good Samaritan Foundation, which provides for physical needs for lepers and orphaned children, and The Hope Foundation, which exists largely to encourage the ministries of student and career missionaries especially in lands not open to a Christian witness.

Everywhere the couple journeys they carry the message of Jesus. In leper colonies the opportunities are numerous. "We hug each of these special people," Gina said. "We don't want any one to feel neglected or left out."

Richard preaches a five-minute message, and Gina busies herself with providing balloons and T-shirts. They both often seem like happy young children, content with doing whatever God lays before them.

Gina smiles when she remembers the 91-year-old woman who accepted Christ in her presence. "You preached the sermon," she reminds her husband, "that moved her to make the choice."

"We are a team, Gina," Richard responds to his devoted partner. "Sometimes one sows and the other one reaps."

"Occasionally I wondered if we had overextended ourselves," the

among the ways Richard and Gina Headrick relax — and carry self-styled servant the Gospel to those they encounter across the country. The of God confessed. Headricks also travel around the world, as well as across "We stay on the America, as ambassadors for Christ. (BP photo)



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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UCM KD RUV FWSWUB-

WM NCDX AKT JQ DAW

AXBQ LAXVD, DAUD AW

VAXNBM CXD VWW

MWUDA, JWPXFW AW

AUM VWWC DAW

BXFM'V EAFKVD.

BNYW DRX: DRWCDQ-VKI

Clue: V=S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Twenty-Seven